

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /071 W

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O P 121150Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9315

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2686

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: FORTY-THIRD DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 2628

1. SUMMARY. THE KC OVERRAN THE NAVAL GARRISON AT DEI DOS, A CRITICAL CHOKEPOINT SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ON THE MEKONG LATE FEBRUARY 11. THE DEFENDERS SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES. EIGHT DIED FROM A ROCKET THAT HIT THE PHNOM PENH CENTRAL MARKET. ACTIVITY IN THE PROVINCES WAS SLIGHT. END SUMMARY

2. LATE FEBRUARY 11 KC FORCES OVERRAN THE FANK POSITION AT DEI DOS WHICH GUARDED THE NARROWEST PART OF THE MEKONG BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND NEAK LUONG. NAVAL CRAFT ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER THE POST FELL AND RESCUED ABOUT 150 TROOPS FOUND SWIMMING OR SCATTERED ON THE BANKS. NEARLY 200 DEFENDERS ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR. A FRESH BATTALION WITH ORDERS TO RETAKE THE POSITION SPENT THE NIGHT ABOARD CRAFT NEAR BANAM AND, AT LAST
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REPORT, HAD LANDED 5 KM. SOUTH OF DEI DOS. FURTHER

SOUTH ON THE MEKONG, PEAM REANG ISLAND REMAINED UNDER HEAVY ATTACK BY FIRE.

3. ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, BRIDGE NO. 9 AGAIN CAME UNDER HEAVY GROUND ATTACK. THE ATTACK DID NOT PREVENT A NAVAL RESUPPLY SHIP FROM OFF-LOADING 10 TONS OF AMMO AND RICE. NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL IN THE 71VH#DIVISION AREA OFF ROUTE 5, THE KC PUSHED FANK ELEMENTS TRYING TO OPEN THE ROAD TO THE ISOLATED 45TH BRIGADE BACK TO THE DIVISION COMMAND POST AT TRAPEANG PREY.

4. THE KC FIRED THREE ROCKETS AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT. THE ROUNDS INJURED TWO BUT CAUSED NO REPORTED DAMAGE. SEVEN ROUNDS LANDED IN THE CAPITAL; ONE EXPLODED NEAR THE CENTRAL MARKET KILLING EIGHT AND WOUNDING 16. WE ARE INVESTIGATING REPORTS THAT SOME OF THESE ROUNDS WERE 105MM ARTILLERY RATHER THAN 107MM ROCKET.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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